

Appl. No. 09/446,202
Atty. Docket No. 6741
Amtd. dated 06/12/2003
Reply to Office Action of 03/18/03

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-13. (*Cancelled*)

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Claim 14. (*Currently amended*) A concentrated composition suitable for use in preparing a dilute treatment composition having a viscosity of less than about 10cp for treating food at a basic pH by diluting with water using from about 0.1% to about 5% of the concentrated composition, by weight of the dilute treatment composition, said concentrated composition comprising:

- (a) from about 0.5% to about ~~25%~~ 50% by weight of toxicologically-acceptable detergent surfactant selected from the group consisting of alkyl sulfates and C₈-C₁₄ soaps;
- (b) a basic buffer to provide a pH in said dilute treatment composition of from about ~~11.3~~ 10.5 to about ~~12.3~~ 13, but with low reserve alkalinity in said dilute composition to avoid damage to a human, the level of orthophosphate, when present, being from about 3% to about 60%, by weight of phosphoric acid equivalent;
- (c) from about 2% to about 20% by weight of a calcium ion sequestrant, which is sodium and/or potassium tripolyphosphate and/or ethylenediaminetetraacetate;
- (d) optionally, a toxicologically-acceptable preservative;
- (e) a toxicologically-acceptable suds suppressor; and
- (f) the balance comprising compatible, toxicologically-acceptable inert and/or minor ingredients.

Claims 15-21. (*Cancelled*)

Claim 22. (*New*) A composition according to Claim 14 packaged in combination with usage instructions which instruct the user regarding proper dilution and timing of usage of said composition, as well as directing the user not to rinse the composition from the food to avoid possible recontamination.

Claim 23. (*New*) A method for treating food to reduce the level of microorganisms on the surface of said food and make it safe to eat, comprising the step of contacting the surface of said food for a period of time in excess of about one half of minute with an aqueous solution comprising from 0.1% to 5%, by weight, of the composition of Claim 14, without rinsing said solution from said surface.